

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Species I, illustrated in Fig(s). 4-6 directed to claims 1-4;

Species II, illustrated in Fig. 8 directed to claims 1-9; and

Species III, illustrated in Fig(s). 9-10 directed to claims 1-4 and 10-12.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Species I, illustrated in Fig(s). 4-6 with traverse.

Claim(s) 1-4 are directed to the elected species. As acknowledged by the Examiner, at least claim(s) 1-4 are generic.

As set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.146, a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The present application contains a reasonable number of species. Further, examination of all of the species together in one application would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement is improper in view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are

set forth in the present application.

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the requirement for election of species, and an action on all of the claims in the application, are respectfully requested.

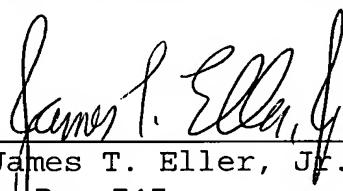
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


James T. Eller, Jr., #39,538
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JTE/mlr
0630-1933P